institutions and the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual company/unit cannot be divulged.

(d) The decision regarding financing of a particular economic activity or granting loans to individual entities is taken by financial institutions themselves based on their commercial judgement and the loan policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI from time to time.

Income tax assessees

980. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of income-tax assessees employed people, businessmen, professionals and other and the total amount collected separately; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The number of income tax assessees as on 31.3.2000 and the total amount of income tax and corporation tax collected from them during financial year 1999-2000. Chief Commissioner's region-wise are enclosed in the Statement *(See* below) No separate figures of collection from assessees on the basis of their occupation like employment, business, profession etc. is compiled.

Statement

(In Rupee Crore)

Region	Tax collection (F. Year 1999-2000)		Total Number of Assessees#	
	Corporation Tax	Income Tax	Corporate	Non corporate
Ahmedabad	802.03	1576.11	21467	1738852
Bangalore	1038.64	1793.25	12561	1071399
Bhopal	729.64	557.12	5727	1019905
Mumbai	13373.71	6675.36	70116	1851611
Calcutta	1256.7	1374.99	56363	2155276
Cochin	282.16	505.94	4446	623895
Hyderabad	692.51	1087.8	13273	939741
Jaipur	185.22	526.13	7699	1068879
Chennai	1639.58	2015.15	29217	1671879
New Delhi	5795.45	3334.85	76015	136961i
Chandigarh	109.55	532.74	10824	1426164
Kanpur	2757.82	613.09	6592	786755
Lucknow	89.02	554.07	5272	842265
Pune	825.49	1729.74	11796	1970866
Patna	723.23	814.89	6408	1724705
Panchkula	380.88	766.91	2611	620576
Central TDS	15.23	838.31		
Total	30696.87	25296.45	340907	20882443

Total Number of assessees as on 31.3.2000 is 21223350 as against provisional figures of 21429352 supplied earlier.

Investment of Employees Provident Fund and Pension Fund in Stock Market

981. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has made a statement that Employees Provident Fund and Pension Fund will be invested in stock market;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals;

(c) whether Government are aware that the trade unions have opposed the proposals; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (aJ and (b) Government notification dated 31.3.99 (copy enclosed) *(See* below) lays down the pattern of investment of Provident Fund moneys. Among other categories investment upto 2% of incremental accretions in EPF moneys can be made in private sector bonds/ securities which have an investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The provisions under the notification mentioned above are only enabling in nature and are not mandatory.